

I feel great concern over this proposal to further relax restrictions on station ownership. Since the gates were opened in 1996, we've seen stations across the country gobbled up by conglomerates like Clear Channel Communications. It's not only the increasing blandness of American music that is at issue, it is also the political power and influence -- with diminished threat of competition -- wielded by those who own increasingly large chunks of the media, that is at issue. I do not think that those who assert that misguided moves like this threaten the future of American democracy are exaggerating. I urge you not only to reject this idea of allowing further consolidation of American media, but also to investigate the idea of breaking up current monopolies by returning to the pre 1996 standards.